

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Steven L. Lindblom et al.

Serial No.: 10/730,164

Filed: December 8, 2003

Docket No.: 10409US01/T201.188.101

Title: DATA STORAGE TAPE WITH PATTERNED SURFACE

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**REMARKS**

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed March 21, 2005, in which claims 1-25 were rejected. With this amendment, claims 5, 17, and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 13, 20, and 22 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-20, and 22-25 therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103**

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Iwasaki et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,429,411.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the second side of the substrate has a pattern formed therein and that the coating conforms to the pattern in the second side of the substrate to form the pattern in a surface of the coating. In addition, independent claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the method includes forming a pattern in the second side of the substrate, wherein disposing a coating on the second side of the substrate includes conforming the coating to the pattern in the second side of the substrate and forming the pattern in a surface of the coating. In addition, independent claim 20 has been amended to clarify that the first side of the data storage tape includes a substantially uniform recording layer and the second side of the data storage tape includes a coating, wherein the pattern is formed in a substrate of the data storage tape and the coating conforms to the pattern in the substrate to form the pattern in a surface of the coating.

With respect to the Iwasaki et al. patent, this patent does not teach or suggest data storage tape as claimed in independent claim 1, a method of forming data storage tape as claimed in independent claim 13, nor a method of coiling data storage tape as claimed in independent claim 20. For example, the Iwasaki et al. patent discloses a magnetic tape processing method and a magnetic tape processing apparatus wherein the backing layer of the magnetic tape is processed to form recesses (col. 6, lines 35-54). According to the Iwasaki et al. patent, the tape may be processed at any step in a magnetic tape manufacturing process "so long as it is processed after the backing layer has been formed" (col. 23, lines 11-15). The Iwasaki et al. patent, however, does not disclose a pattern being formed in the base layer of

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the tape and the backing layer conforming to the pattern in the base layer to form the pattern in a surface of the backing layer.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 13, and 20 are each patentably distinct from the Iwasaki et al. patent and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-4 and 6-12 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 14-16 and 18-19 further define patentably distinct claim 13, and dependent claims 22-25 further define patentably distinct claim 20, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or, in the alternative, U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-20, and 22-25 be allowed.

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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-20, and 22-25 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this Amendment and Response.

Respectfully submitted,

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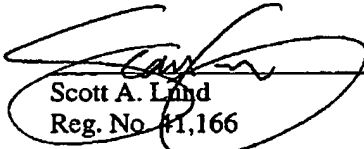
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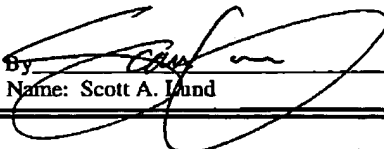
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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2005

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